Linkage of Iron-ore reserves

2960. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN :
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to award linkage of iron-ore reserves to domestic companies like Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and others; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) In terms of provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, State Governments may grant mineral concessions including mining lease (ML) to any Indian national, or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 for exploration and exploitation of minerals. Prior approval of Central Government is mandatory in respect of minerals included in the First Schedule of the MMDR ACT, 1957. Iron ore is one of the minerals included in the First Schedule of the Act. At present, no proposal has been received for seeking prior approval of Central Government for grant of mining lease of iron ore in favour of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL).

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Reorganisation of Geological Suvery of India

2961. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India is to be decentralized into seven

separate Centres of Excellence under the ambit of National Council of Geo-Scientific and Mineral Research and Training;

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure of not down-sizing and closing of any wing in all the streams of GSI, including scientific, technical, Group C and D employees, they have already been downsized due to imposition of ban on recruitment and superannuation for several years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is conscious of the need to ensure that the Geological Survey of India has adequate complement of staff to carry out its tasks as per its charter of functions, and has taken all action that is necessary in this regard.

Diamond Reserves in Madhya Pradesh

†2962. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether diamond reserves have been found in several districts of Madhya Pradesh like Chattarpur, Satna and Panna;

(b) whether the work of exploring diamonds is in progress in these districts;

(c) the quantity of diamond likely to be get from these districts; and

(d) by whom the work of exploring diamonds is being carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Diamond reserves have been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi